

Dylan Lomangino

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Bloomfield, CT 06002

Testimony in Support of SB284

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Dylan Lomangino and I live in Bloomfield, CT.

I am writing to express my support of SB284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in making sure our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we all need and deserve. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

As an educator, I know how important health care is for children and their families to be healthy. Without access to health insurance, it is virtually impossible for undocumented people to access health care. When one of our systems denies access to care, this creates a compounded effect: lack of access to affordable health care also impacts economic security, housing security, food security, mental health, and more. If we want all children to succeed and be healthy, we must prioritize the health and well-being of their family as well.

Undocumented people in Connecticut are a part of our social fabric that connects us all. As we continue to live in a global pandemic, it is only morally right for our state to ensure that everyone has access to affordable health care. If we want Connecticut to recover from COVID-19, we must work toward ensuring that undocumented immigrants of all ages can access health care. Leaving undocumented parents and adults behind means leaving a large portion of essential workers on the frontlines of the pandemic behind.

Thank you,

dylan lomangino